



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

July 12, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company returning from Iraq

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company, Milwaukee and Madison, is scheduled to be back in Wisconsin next week after serving more than 16 months on active duty and service in Iraq for about 14 months. The unit's 150 soldiers were ordered to active duty March 15, 2003 and deployed to Southwest Asia in early May.

Most of the 32nd MPs moved from Iraq to Kuwait over the weekend and one platoon-sized element is expected to be in Kuwait within the next 48 hours. The entire company is scheduled to return to Volk Field Air National Guard base on a military charter aircraft late next week.

Soldiers will be met by senior National Guard officials, the University of Wisconsin Marching Band and UW Alumni Band, and as many as 600 family members, friends and fellow Guard soldiers. Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," the soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

The 32nd MPs were originally expected home in early May, but in mid-April the company's soldiers were among 6,000 Guard and Reserve troops extended beyond the one year "boots on the ground" policy then in effect.

While in Iraq, the MP soldiers provided security in and around Baghdad, and also helped train the new civilian Iraqi police force. The unit suffered more injuries from hostile action than any Wisconsin National Guard unit since World War II. Twenty-three [corrected number] Purple Heart medals were awarded to 32nd Military Police Company soldiers, including one Purple Heart awarded to Spc. Michelle Witmer, New Berlin, who was the first female soldier killed in action in the 367-year history of the National Guard — nationwide.

— more —

32nd MPs returning to Wisconsin

Page 2

Following redeployment of the 32nd MP Company, the Wisconsin Guard will still have about 1,270 [corrected number] soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 230 are deployed overseas with more than 700 others who are eventually bound for overseas missions. Another 800 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers are alerted for possible mobilization.

#

Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of the 32nd Military Police Company next week. An updated news release will be issued once the MP Company's return flight schedule is firm.

Following the aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing. It is not yet known exactly when they will return to their hometown armories in Milwaukee and Madison before being released from active duty.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field arrival should call Lt. Col. Tim Donovan (608-242-3050 or Cell 608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. News media will not be permitted on the base unless arrangements have been made in advance.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON THE GUARD'S NEWS RELEASE WEB SITE
AND RECORDED UPDATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 608-242-3059.**

CALL 608-242-3059 FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE SCHEDULE CHANGES.

Current news releases are available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>